

**Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 – Expedited Procedure**

Serial No.: 09/741,632

Examiner: Jerry B. Dennison

**REMARKS**

Claims 16 through 20 remain in this application. Claims 1 through 15 are cancelled. Claims 21 through 24 are added.

**Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103**

The Office Action includes a rejection to Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 11-13 and 15 as being rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 6,574,238 to Thrysoe (the Thrysoe reference). The Office Action also includes a rejection of Claims 4, 5, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Thrysoe in view of U.S. Patent 4,967,405 to Upp, et al. (the Upp reference). Claims 1 through 15 are canceled above and claims 21 through 24 are added to more broadly and accurately describe the invention.

The Office Action also rejects Claims 8-10, 16, 17 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Thrysoe in view of U.S. Patent Number 5,257,261 to Parruck, et al. (the Parruck reference). As to the remaining claims, none of these references either alone or in combination teach the requirements of the claims.

**Independent Claim 16 and dependent claims 17 through 20**

Independent Claim 16 states, "receiving a first STS-3 telecommunications signal carrying three STS-1 telecommunications signals, the three STS-1 telecommunications signals each including header and payload information byte interleaved into a first frame structure for the first STS-3 telecommunications signal, the first frame structure having a header portion with byte interleaved header information of the three STS-1 telecommunications signals, the first frame structure having a payload portion with byte interleaved header information of the three STS-1 telecommunications signals, the payload portion of the first frame structure including fixed stuff byte locations, the payload portion of the first frame structure including path overhead locations; placing the payload portion of the first frame structure into payload locations of a second frame structure for a second STS-3 telecommunications signal, the path overhead locations of the

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payload portion of the first frame structure being placed into path overhead locations of the second frame structure; placing the header portion of the first frame structure into payload locations of the second frame structure, the header portion of the first frame structure being placed into fixed stuff bytes of the second frame structure.” The Thrysoe reference does not teaches any of the elements of the claim. As disclosed at column 6, lines 21 through 25, the Thrysoe reference is merely rearranging the format of ISL frame header data. The Thrysoe reference states, “The ISL frame processor 504 can rearrange ISL frame header data. For example, the processor 550 can convert between the Ethernet-based ISL frames of Fig. 3B and the modified Ethernet frame of FIG.4 by relocating DESTRD and SRCRD fields in the ISL frames.” The Thrysoe reference is thus merely modifying the ISL frame by moving the placement of two fields in the frame.

The Parruck reference fails to add to the teachings of the Thrysoe reference to teach or suggest the requirements of claim 16. The Office Action states that the Parruck reference teaches, “concatenation of STS-1 signals to form an STS-3 signal,” and cites column 3, lines 15 through 25. The mapping of an STS-N frame, an STS-3 type transport overhead and an STS-NC SPE are illustrated in Figures 6a, 6b and 6c. As seen in these figures, in this concatenation process, it does not disclose that the header portions of the first frame structure are mapped into payload locations of the second frame structure, the header portion of the first frame structure being placed into fixed stuff bytes of the second frame structure, as required by claim 16.

Independent Claim 21 and dependent claims 22 through 24

Independent Claim 21 requires, “receiving a frame from the first network with a first frame structure having a payload portion and overhead portion, wherein the overhead portion includes a path, line and section overhead portions; mapping bytes from the payload portion of the first frame into payload portions of the second frame; mapping path overhead of the first frame into path overhead portions of the second frame; and mapping line overhead and section

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overhead of the first frame into remaining unused bytes of the path overhead of the second frame and into designated fixed stuff byte columns of the second frame.”

Neither the Thrysoe reference or the Parruck reference teach any of the elements of the claim.

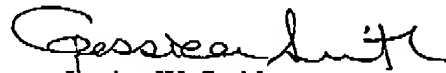
As explained above, the Thrysoe reference is merely rearranging the format of ISL frame header data. The Parruck reference does not disclose mapping path overhead of the first frame into path overhead portions of the second frame and mapping line overhead and section overhead of the first frame into remaining unused bytes of the path overhead of the second frame and into designated fixed stuff byte columns of the second frame, as required by claim 21.

**CONCLUSION**

It is believed that the foregoing amendment places the Application in condition for allowance; therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejections of the claims be withdrawn, and full allowance granted under 37 C.F.R. 1.116. Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact Jessica Smith at 972-477-9109.

Respectfully submitted,

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